

A possible second brood Orange-tip butterfly

My twelve year old daughter, Jolene, is confident that on 22nd July 1989 she saw a male Orange-tip (*Anthocharis cardamines* L.) near Aylesford railway station, Kent. In view of the high temperatures in 1989 it does seem possible that a few individuals emerged from the pupa on the year they were formed.— M. EASTERBROOK, 26 Orchard Grove, Ditton, Maidstone, Kent.

***Epirrita filigrammaria* H.-S. (Lep.: Geometridae) in Worcestershire**

On 6th September 1989 a specimen of the Small Autumnal moth, *Epirrita filigrammaria* was taken from a normal tungsten light bulb by our front door in West Malvern.

The moth, which is a new county record for v.c. 37, was in excellent condition and may have bred nearby as there are some patches of bilberry close by. If we are able to confirm breeding next year this may prove to be the most southerly site in Britain. I am grateful to Dr M. Harper for confirming my identification.— P. GARNER, 233 West Malvern Road, Worcestershire WR14 4BE.

An early record of *Vanessa atalanta* Linn. (Lep.: Nymphalidae)

Whilst walking through the gardens at Borde Hill near Haywards Heath, Sussex (Map reference TQ 322266) on Sunday 18th March 1990, I was pleased to see the unmistakable sight of a Red Admiral feeding on the rhododendron flowers. Because of the very mild winter we have just experienced I immediately thought that this could be an individual which had successfully hibernated as an adult rather than being a primary migrant. This past winter has been quite exceptional here in the south-east. Apart from a period of hard frosts in November there have been only two or three nights when the temperature has fallen below freezing.— COLIN HART, Fourpenny Cottage, Dungates Lane, Buckland, Surrey RH3 7BD.

What has happened to the *Apocheimas*?

The remarkable weather we have experienced is bound to have an effect on our Lepidoptera. During 1989, for example, I noted a number of dwarf examples of several species, such as *Acleris laterana* (Fabr.), *Hydriomena furcata* (Thunb.) and *Cryphia domestica* (Hufn.) — probably due to drought conditions. But what effect have a dry summer and two mild winters had on *Apocheima hispidaria* (D. & S.) (Small Brindled Beauty) and *A. pilosaria* (D. & S.) (Pale Brindled Beauty)? Usually these two species, particularly the latter, are to be regarded as veritable sparrows of the moth world — often occurring in droves at light traps during February and March. The two mild winters allowed trapping to continue throughout the cooler months, and if an extended emergence took place it was not